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CIA feared for Vinton

Now it can be told. Bobby Vinton's determination to help the Polish people win new rights from their Communist regime could have cost him his life. Vinton revealed yesterday that he was told that the CIA was concerned for his safety and recommended a large security detail to protect him. "I was warning that Solidarity was set up by the Russians, and infiltrated by troublemakers who pushed things faster than Lech Walesa and the leaders of the social movement wanted," said Bobby. "The Soviets pushed the movement and set the stage for martial law. I was caught up in the movement and went to Poland in 1981 to help but was told to back off. They wanted to make gradual improvements over 20 years. They didn't want a revolution. They wanted an evolution. I went as an ambassador of good will for the White House and wanted to help a lot. But I was told to cool it. Then somebody jumped the gun and martial law came in." Back home, Vinton became a rallying point for Polish-Americans. At a Pittsburgh concert, he was told that the CIA called the sponsors and urged he be given a security detail because the agency feared for his safety. He got a detail of 20 bodyguards. "I never found out who was going to hurt me but I'm not afraid. I'll keep on singing 'She Will Survive' about Poland wanting to be free and I'll do everything to remind Americans of the plight of the Poles. The least I can do now is to keep the spirit and hope alive." He'll deliver the message on his new tour of the U.S. starting this weekend at Hunter Mountain in the Catskills.